

Amendments to the Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) A method for workpiece movement and positioning comprising the steps of:

loading a the workpiece;

moving the workpiece linearly to a predetermined location;

stopping ~~the~~ said linear movement of said the workpiece at the ~~said~~ predetermined location;

returning ~~said~~ the workpiece to its original location;

and unloading ~~said~~ the workpiece;

and further comprising selecting between one of the following sub-processes and implementing the selected sub-process:

- 1) constantly rotating said the workpiece when said the workpiece is moving linearly or is at the said predetermined location;
- 2) when the workpiece is at the predetermined location, holding the workpiece in a fixed position for a predetermined period of time; and
- 3) when the workpiece is at the predetermined location, holding the workpiece in a fixed position for a predetermined period of time, then, prior to the returning step,

- a) lowering the workpiece a predetermined distance;
- b) indexing the workpiece a predetermined distance;
- c) raising the workpiece back into the predetermined location;
- d) holding the workpiece in a fixed position for a predetermined amount of time; and
- e) repeating the lowering, indexing, raising and holding steps.

~~not constantly rotating said workpiece when said workpiece is moving linearly or at the said predetermined location and instead holding said workpiece in a fixed position for a predetermined period of time;~~

~~and:~~

~~not constantly rotating said workpiece when said workpiece is moving linearly or at the said predetermined location and instead holding said workpiece in a fixed position for a predetermined period of time;~~

~~lowering said workpiece a predetermined distance;~~

~~indexing said workpiece by rotating said workpiece a predetermined incremental amount;~~

~~raising said workpiece back into position;~~

~~holding said workpiece in a fixed position for a predetermined amount of time; and~~

~~repeating the said lowering, indexing, raising and holding steps until the workpiece has been indexed 360 degrees or less as required by said workpiece.~~

Claim 2 (original) The method as set forth in claim 1 including an induction coil and quench means; the step of activating the induction coil and quench means as the workpiece travels linearly to harden the workpiece.

Claim 3 (cancelled)

Claim 4 (original) The method as set forth in claim 1 including an induction coil and quench means; the step of activating the induction coil and quench means while the workpiece is being held in position.

Claim 5 (original) The method of claim 1 including any of the means for milling, drilling, welding, assembling, stamping, marking or bending; including the step of activating the means for milling, drilling, welding, assembling, stamping, marking or bending.

Claim 6 (original) A workpiece movement and positioning device, the workpiece being located on center with the movement and positioning device, the workpiece movement and positioning device comprising:

a frame for attaching the workpiece movement and positioning device;

a computer or control mechanism for turning on and off the workpiece movement and positioning device and other components and/or attachments;

an actuator consisting of a ball screw/ball spline assembly with servo motors and a lift shaft for providing the linear and rotational movement of the workpiece such that the workpiece can be caused to move linearly, linear and hold, linearly with rotation, and/or lift and index;

a means for moving the lift shaft linearly without undue bending or flexing;

a means for holding the workpiece in position on the lift shaft;

a manual safety switch to prevent the device from being operated unintentionally.

Claim 7 (original) The workpiece movement and positioning device of claim 6 further comprising shielding and drain pans to contain any quench fluid and as a safety guard.

Claim 8 (original) The workpiece movement and positioning device of claim 7 - further comprising induction hardening and quenching means wherein the workpiece and hardening means can be operated in either a scan hardening process, a pop up induction hardening process and/or a lift and index hardening process.